

UNITED STATES–JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2014

MARKUP BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 5648

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

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UNITED STATES–JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2014

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:05 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Subcommittee will come to order. I know that we will have votes pretty soon, so it is going to be a little tricky to do all this, but we can.

Pursuant to notice, I call up the bill, H.R. 5648, the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2014, for purposes of markup. Without objection, it will be considered as read, and sections 1 through 3, the portions within this committee's jurisdiction, are open for amendment at any point.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5648

To improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To improve defense cooperation between the United States
and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Jordan
5 Defense Cooperation Act of 2014”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) From the \$2,400,000,000 in total United
9 States multilateral funding for the Syrian humani-
10 tarian crisis, the United States Government has pro-

1 vided \$268,000,000 to the Hashemite Kingdom of
2 Jordan.

3 (2) As of August 2014, the United Nations
4 High Commissioner for Refugees estimates there are
5 more than 600,000 registered Syrian refugees in
6 Jordan.

7 (3) Jordan estimates that more than 800,000
8 unregistered refugees are in Jordan living outside of
9 refugee camps, assimilated into local communities,
10 which would bring the total to approximately
11 1,400,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan.

12 (4) In February 2014, President Obama an-
13 nounced that the United States and Jordan will
14 renew the non-binding memorandum of under-
15 standing that was signed in 2008 to provide assist-
16 ance to Jordan over a 5-year period that reinforces
17 the commitment to broaden cooperation and dia-
18 logue between the two countries in a variety of
19 areas.

20 (5) In 2000, the United States and Jordan
21 signed a free-trade agreement that went into force
22 in 2001.

23 (6) In 1996, the United States granted Jordan
24 major non-NATO ally status.

1 (7) Jordan is suffering from the Syrian refugee
2 crisis and the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and
3 the Levant (ISIL).

4 (8) The Government of Jordan was elected as
5 a non-permanent member of the United Nations Se-
6 curity Council beginning in January 2014 and ter-
7 minating in December 2015.

8 (9) Enhanced support for defense cooperation
9 with Jordan is important to the national security of
10 the United States, including through creation of a
11 status in law for Jordan similar to the countries in
12 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Japan,
13 Australia, the Republic of Korea, Israel, and New
14 Zealand, with respect to consideration by Congress
15 of foreign military sales to Jordan.

16 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

17 It should be the policy of the United States to sup-
18 port the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in its response
19 to the Syrian refugee crisis, provide necessary assistance
20 to alleviate the domestic burden to provide basic needs for
21 the assimilated Syrian refugees, cooperate with Jordan to
22 combat the terrorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq
23 and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations,
24 and help secure the border between Jordan and its neigh-
25 bors Syria and Iraq.

1 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that expeditious consider-
3 ation of certifications of letters of offer to sell defense arti-
4 cles, defense services, design and construction services,
5 and major defense equipment to the Hashemite Kingdom
6 of Jordan under section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control
7 Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is fully consistent with United
8 States security and foreign policy interests and the objec-
9 tives of world peace and security.

10 **SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.**

11 The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et
12 seq.) is amended—

13 (1) in section 3 (22 U.S.C. 2753)—

14 (A) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “the
15 Government of Jordan,” before “or the Govern-
16 ment of New Zealand”; and

17 (B) in subsection (d)—

18 (i) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “
19 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;

20 (ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by insert-
21 ing “ Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;
22 and

23 (iii) in paragraph (5), by inserting “
24 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;

25 (2) in section 21 (22 U.S.C. 2761)—

1 (A) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by inserting “
2 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”; and
3 (B) in subsection (h)—
4 (i) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “
5 Jordan,” before “or Israel”; and
6 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “
7 Jordan,” before “or Israel” both places it
8 appears;
9 (3) in section 36 (22 U.S.C. 2776)—
10 (A) in subsection (b)—
11 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “
12 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;
13 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “
14 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”; and
15 (iii) in paragraph (6), by inserting “
16 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;
17 (B) in subsection (c), by inserting “ Jordan,
18 dan,” before “or New Zealand” both places it
19 appears; and
20 (C) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by inserting “
21 Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;
22 (4) in section 62(c)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2796a(c)(1)),
23 by inserting “ Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;
24 and

1 (5) in section 63(a)(2) (22 U.S.C.
2 2796b(a)(2)), by inserting “ Jordan,” before “or
3 New Zealand”.

4 **SEC. 6. AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF**
5 **1961.**

6 Section 656(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
7 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2416(a)(2)) by inserting “Jordan,” be-
8 fore “or New Zealand”.

9 **SEC. 7. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is author-
11 ized, subject to the availability of appropriations, to enter
12 into a Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan to in-
13 crease military cooperation, including joint military exer-
14 cises, personnel exchanges, support for international
15 peacekeeping missions, and enhanced strategic dialogue.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)
18 not less than \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
19 2015 through 2019.

20 **SEC. 8. FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM.**

21 Amounts made available under the Foreign Military
22 Financing (FMF) program estimated to be outlaid for
23 Jordan during each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019
24 shall be disbursed to an interest-bearing account for Jor-
25 dan in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York not later

1 than 30 days of the date of the enactment of this Act
2 provided that—

3 (1) withdrawal of funds from such account shall
4 be made only on authenticated instructions from the
5 Defense Finance and Accounting Service of the De-
6 partment of Defense;

7 (2) in the event such account is closed, the bal-
8 ance of the account shall be transferred promptly to
9 the appropriations account for the Foreign Military
10 Financing Program; and

11 (3) none of the interest accrued by such ac-
12 count should be obligated unless the Committee on
13 Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Af-
14 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
15 mittee on Appropriations and the Committee on
16 Foreign Relations of the Senate are notified.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. After opening remarks by me and the ranking member, I will be glad to recognize any member seeking recognition to speak on this bill.

As we know, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one of the greatest allies in the Middle East. In 1996, the United States recognized the Kingdom as a major non-NATO ally. In 2000, the United States and Jordan signed a free trade agreement that went into effect in 2001. In 2010, the U.S. and Jordan signed a \$275 million compact through the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Not only have the bilateral ties between both nations been strong, but Jordan continues to be a large player in regional efforts. In the midst of the conflict in Syria and Iraq, Jordan has played a central role to the international response to both humanitarian crises. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that more than 600,000 Syrians have registered as refugees in Jordan.

In addition, the Kingdom estimates that another 800,000 refugees—listen to those numbers—have been assimilated into local communities outside the refugee camps, bringing the total of Syrian refugees in Jordan to 1.4 million people. This amount is in addition to the other refugees that Jordan has already taken through the years from the West Bank and Iraq. The population influx has put a severe strain on the infrastructure and the economy of Jordan that is dangerously unsustainable.

In June, Ranking Member Ted Deutch and I had the pleasure of visiting Jordan to witness firsthand the challenges that the Kingdom is facing. The message that our delegation gave the King was simple: The United States Congress supports Jordan, we will continue to help ensure that Jordan remains stable, because by providing stability, Jordan is an essential piece of the United States' Middle East strategy and will continue to play an important role in the many challenges that we face, such as fighting terrorism from ISIL, stability in Iraq, playing a role between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, and I hope that both nations can work together to calm tensions currently in the region. However, we must analyze the current situation on the ground carefully and must be proactive in supporting our allies. We cannot wait for the ISIL threat to directly arrive to Jordan's doorstep for Congress to act. More needs to be done to bolster the Kingdom's ability.

And I have more to say, but I know that time is short, so I will now turn to my good friend, Congressman Ted Deutch, our ranking member, for his opening remarks.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity. I know how hard you worked on this legislation. This is a bill that clearly highlights the importance of regional cooperation with Jordan. And because I know we are short on time and out of respect for our colleagues, I would like to give them the opportunity to speak, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much. I should have yielded way before also. What was I thinking?

Mr. CHABOT of Ohio is recognized.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I get choked up just thinking about you, Steve.

Mr. CHABOT. I appreciate that, and I will be very brief. I just want to commend you for bringing this legislation before the subcommittee today. Jordan is a longtime friend and ally of the United States and sits in a very dangerous part of the world. Over the years, it has taken in refugees from throughout the region, whether it be the Palestinians or Iraqis or most recently Syrians who have fled the hostilities in that beleaguered nation.

This measure recognizes those realities and reasserts our support for a continued strong alliance with our Jordanian ally. It is a timely measure, and I would urge its adoption. Thank you for bringing it forward.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Chabot.

Mr. Connolly.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

The United States and the Kingdom of Jordan have a long and close collaborative relationship. It has promoted our national security and regional stability for many years. Jordan is a major non-NATO ally and a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council. It has been the recipient of funding from several U.S. foreign assistance programs over decades. They are an essential player in the region from our point of view, obviously. I commend the work you have done, and I would ask that the balance of my statement be entered into the record in full.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Without objection, all members' statements will be made a part of the record.

Senator Cotton is recognized.

Mr. COTTON. I yield back the balance of my time in a manner very unfitting of a Senator-elect.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I know. You will rue the day. You will never do that again.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I have never heard a Senator do that, Madam Chairman, ever.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Unprecedented.

And so, Mr. Kinzinger, we will go to you then, sir.

Mr. KINZINGER. I have no statement. I also yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Okay. Thank you.

Mr. DeSantis.

Mr. DESANTIS. Yield back to you, Madam Chair.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Dr. Yoho.

Mr. YOHO. I yield back also.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Oh, boy, oh, boy. The pressure is on, Mr. Schneider. Please speak.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you. I will just add the comments and associate with what has already been said. Jordan is a key ally in a critical region, and we need to make sure they have the support they need to deal with the many crises they face. Thank you for calling this hearing and introducing this legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir. We will miss you. But we still are not done. We will be meeting once again. Thank you, Brad.

And Ms. Meng is recognized.

Ms. MENG. I have no statement, Madam Chairwoman. I yield back my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you.

Mr. VARGAS.

Mr. VARGAS. As a lowly freshman, I will yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Well, thank you so much. Oh, I am so sorry, Mr. Higgins.

Mr. HIGGINS. I just walked in.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Oh, I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Higgins.

Mr. HIGGINS. I will yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. All right. Thank you.

So no other members seek recognition to speak on the bill. Are there any amendments? Hearing no further amendments, the Chair moves to report the bill favorably to the full committee.

All in favor, say aye.

All opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. The motion is approved. The bill is reported favorably to the full committee with thanks to my colleagues for their support, their input, cooperation. That concludes today's markup, and the subcommittee stands adjourned, but we will reconvene right after votes. Not right now, Mr. Acevedo? After votes. Darn it. Too bad. We could get some stuff done before. Who needs those witnesses.

No, just kidding. Thank you very much. So the subcommittee is adjourned, and we will come back after the votes. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 2:10 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman

November 12, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Wednesday, November 19, 2014

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

MARKUP OF: H.R. 5648, To improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5921 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON the Middle East and North Africa MARKUP

Day Wednesday Date 11/19/14 Room 2172

Starting Time 2:05 p.m. Ending Time 2:10 p.m.

Recesses 0 (to) (to) (to) (to) (to) (to)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Ros-Lehtinen

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Televised ☒

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☐

Stenographic Record ☒

BILLS FOR MARKUP: *(Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)*

H.R. 5648 The United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reps. Ros-Lehtinen, Chabot, Deutch, Connolly, Cotton, DeSantis, Higgins, Kinzinger, Meng, Schneider, Vargas, Yoho.

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

SFR - Rep. Connolly

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: *(Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)*

Refer HR 5648 to full committee.

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): *(Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)*

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
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TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or

TIME ADJOURNED 2:10 p.m.


Subcommittee Staff Director

**11/19/14 Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
Markup Summary**

The Chair called up H.R. 5648 (Ros-Lehtinen), “United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2014” for consideration.

The measure was agreed to by voice vote, and was ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee by unanimous consent.

The Committee adjourned.



Statement for the Record
Submitted by Mr. Connolly of Virginia

Today, the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee will markup sections 1-3 of the Chairman's legislation, H.R. 5648, to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The U.S. and the Kingdom of Jordan have a close and collaborative relationship that has promoted American national security and regional stability for many years. Jordan is a major non-NATO ally and a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Jordan has been the recipient of funding from several U.S. foreign assistance programs including the Economic Support Fund (ESF), Foreign Military Financing (FMF), International Military Education and Training (IMET), and in 2010 Jordan signed a five-year, \$275 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact that renovated and rehabilitated existing water infrastructure in and around the city of Zarqa. The mutually beneficial relationship between our two countries is well-established and thriving.

One appreciates the motivation for seeking to expand this valued partnership. Jordan resides in a dangerous neighborhood. The dual crises of the Syrian civil war and the growth of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) reside just across the 230-mile long border Jordan shares with Syria. King Abdullah II has made appeals to the international community for assistance in combatting the ISIL threat at a time when Jordan is already straining available resources in order to absorb over 1 million Syrian refugees. The U.S. has stated that it seeks an end to the Syrian civil war and the eradication of ISIL, and in this respect, the U.S. and Jordan share immediate and pressing concerns.

I applaud the Chairman's legislation for not only conveying the extensive record of cooperation between the U.S. and Jordan, but also for urging continued collaboration in order to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis and the threat from ISIL. I look forward to a continued discussion on this legislation in the House Foreign Affairs Committee that includes possible hearings and a close examination of amendments this measure proposes to the Arms Export Control Act.